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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Giorgio Mari

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EXAMINER

BASS, DIRK R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1797

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/27/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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ADVISORY ACTION

Applicant argues that Bormann does not disclose a filter arrangement that creates a 'hydrophilicity gradient' between successive filter elements. In response, the examiner directs applicant's attention to figure 1 of Bormann where two successive filter elements (REF 1, 2) create a hydrophilicity gradient between said filter elements. Bormann further discloses a filter arrangement having a plurality of filter elements having hydrophilicity gradients between each successive filter element (fig. 2-3). The examiner concedes that Bormann does not disclose such an embodiment where more than two filter elements are used which create an overall 'hydrophilicity gradient' and looks to Majurel to obviate such an omission. Majurel discloses a separation device comprising a filter element having three successive layers, said layers creating a hydrophilicity gradient (abstract). Therefore, the examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the filter element of Bormann to include the multiple layer filter arrangement disclosed in Majurel in order to increase separation efficiency of a filter element.

In response to applicant's argument that Bormann teaches away from the combination of Bormann and Majurel, if a reference does not teach that a combination is undesirable, then it cannot be said to teach away from said combination. See *In re ICON Health & Fitness, Inc.*, 496 F.3d 1374 (Fed. Cir. 2007).

Conclusion

Art Unit: 1797

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DIRK BASS whose telephone number is (571) 270-7370. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (9am-4pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on (571) 272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Krishnan S Menon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/DRB/
Dirk R. Bass